

Lesson 1 - God Knows Me

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TOPICS

Child of God, Creation, Knowing God, Special, Uniqueness

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

(Word Search) God knows the secrets of our hearts, our thoughts, how we were made; He knows everything. In this word search, children find words from key verses about God's knowledge.

TOPICS:

Knowing God, Power of God, Wisdom



MATERIALS:

Word puzzle for each child
Pencils or markers

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Give each child a pencil or a marker and a copy of the word search. Have the children read the paragraph at the top of the page and then find the words that are in bold print. If you have time, assign the following verses to different children to look up and read aloud.

Psalms 44:21

Psalms 94:11

Psalms 103:14

Matthew 6:8

John 10:14

Acts 15:8

1 John 3:20b

Discussion Questions: (Optional)

1. Does God know everything you need or want? *(Allow for answers.)*
2. How does it make you feel knowing that God knows everything about you? *(Allow for answers.)*

OPENING PRAYER

The Opening Prayer is an important part of every lesson for several reasons. First, it signals that it is time to start the class. The opening activities used while waiting for kids to arrive allow the children to converse and catch up on week long activities. When it is time to get serious, a prayer works great to facilitate this action. Also, an Opening Prayer will set the mood for the lesson while inviting the Holy Spirit to be in control.

The Opening Prayer should always include the following:

1. Praise to God for the opportunity to meet and for the attendance of everyone present.
2. A request for guidance, especially for the teacher so that the Word of God can be shared in a meaningful way.
3. Asking the children to be open to learning the Word of God and to invite the Holy Spirit to be present in both everyone's heart and in the classroom.

Because you are not as restricted to how much time you have left, the Opening Prayer works best for including prayer request and praises. With a new class, the children may not feel comfortable speaking up, but as they get to know each other they will be more open to sharing praises and prayer requests. Sharing like this can take a while, so it is important to make sure the kids stay focused on giving only a praise or a prayer request and not to become side-tracked on other issues. If the class size is very large, you may also want to consider dividing the kids into smaller groups and have prayer led by more than one adult leader or helper.

When including prayer request and praises, always consider the following:

1. Ensure everyone has a chance to contribute.
2. Rather than trusting your memory, be prepared to jot down what is said.
3. Be sure to touch on each child's requests. It is important to them to know that you care about them and that their prayers are important.
4. Make sure special needs of your church or church members are also mentioned.

MEMORY WORK (12 minutes)

"For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:13-14a NIV

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

Last David was a powerful and mighty king during his time, yet he knew God was even more powerful and mightier. David acknowledged that God knew everything about him, his thoughts, his ways, even the words that would come out of his mouth before he spoke them. In our Bible reading today, David tells us what God knows even about us.

Read Psalm 139:1-6

Discussion Questions:

1. Who knows you better, teachers, friends, or your parents?
2. Is there anyone who knows everything about you? Who? (*God.*)
3. From the verses, can you name some of the things that God knows about us? (*Thoughts, words, actions.*)
4. Does God know only the things we have done already? (*No, He knows even before we say or do things.*)
5. If God knows so much about us, how should we feel? (*Special.*)
6. What do you think verse 5 means? (*God always sees and protects us.*)

WHO AM I?

Only God our Creator knows every special thing about us, great or small.

TOPICS:

Acceptance, Individuality, Special, Uniqueness

MATERIALS:

Index card for each child
Pencils or markers

DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Give each child a pencil and one index card. Have them first write their name on the top, and then below write at least four unique things about themselves. Below is an example that you can also write on the board.

Example:

Carol

I Play the violin

I have a broken tooth

I am left handed

I like to play soccer



When everyone is finished, collect and mix all the cards and put them in a box. Have

each child pick up one and read it aloud in front of the class. Let the class guess which child it describes. The object of this is to see how well the children think they know each other. Did anyone get everyone right? There is one who truly knows us personally inside and out. That is the one who created us, our Lord God.

OPEN BOOK

Like an open book, God knows everything about our whole lives, from beginning to end and everything in between.

TOPICS:

Acceptance, Creation, Knowledge, Self-worth

MATERIALS:

Popular children's book

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You will pass around a popular book and give each child a chance to skim through it. Then you will have a short discussion about the story. Did anyone read it, did they like it, who were the main characters, etc. Some children will know the story and some will claim that it was either exciting or boring. You will parallel one's life to a book, and to know the whole story, you must read the book from start to finish.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Here is a popular book. I would like to know if anyone has read this book. How did you like it? Was it exciting or just so? Did you like the main characters?

For those who have not read it, would you be interested to read it or would you prefer to learn about it from someone else who read it?

If someone told you about the story, it would not be enough to know everything that happened. You would miss out on some exciting things. The author of a book begins with a plot. Then he or she writes and rewrites the story many times to get it right from beginning to the end. To know the whole story of a book, you need to read the whole book.

As boys and girls, we are like a story of a book, however our author is God. God wrote our complete story even before we were born. We may only know the past and present, but God knows our whole story from the very beginning up to the very end, and everything in between. Since God created us, He also chose the right story for us, one that is important, exciting, and acceptable. Our story may be boring to some, but never to God.

APPLICATION (5 minutes)

David knew exactly what he was to God: special. And like David, we are also special in the eyes of God. Knowing that God knows everything about us should give us comfort because He always knows everything we need, and is always there for us, to care for us, and love us.

Have the children, one at a time, write down things they know about God on the bulletin board, for example: God is loving, powerful, smart, beautiful, holy, etc.

NEXT WEEK

This week we learned about what God knows, come back next week to find out where He is.

CLOSING PRAYER

Just as the Opening Prayer is extremely important to the day's lesson and structure, so too is the Closing Prayer. Not only does it signal that the class has ended, but it also gives you the opportunity to reinforce the lesson and share what was taught one more time. The children will know the lesson has real life application and meaning when it becomes part of the closing prayer. The closing prayer should be brief. Remember, the children are probably anxious to go on to the next phase of their day, and will not likely keep still to hear a long closing pray.

The Closing Prayer should always include the following:

1. Praise to God for the opportunity to be able to hear His Word and learn from it.
2. Application of the Lesson. For example if the lesson was on "Temptation," your prayer may include asking for the Holy Spirit to help everyone during the week whenever they are tempted.
3. Safety and health for the children.
4. That others may see Jesus in our lives.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TAKE HOME PAGE

To parents:

This page lets you know what your child learned in Sunday school today. In addition, you will find this week's memory verse, a suggested activity, and a short prayer to reinforce the lesson. Being involved and interacting with your child can be very rewarding for both of you.



What we learned:

Today, the children discovered how special they are because God created them in His image, and God knows their innermost thoughts from beginning to end. Then the children shared what they knew about God. (Scripture used: Psalm 139:1-6)



Memory Verse:

"For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:13-14a NIV

Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help him or her remember the verse, but it will also help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.



Suggested Parent/Child Activity:

Find a small object in the house, and together list everything you and your child know about that object. You can describe the shape, the color, the purpose, the size, the feel, what writing if any it has, weight, etc. Do this until you can't think of anything else. How many things are on your list? Then compare this to how much God knows about everything in the world, down the tiniest detail. Conclude by praising God for being all knowing.



Daily Prayer:

Thank You God for creating me, just the way I am. You made me in your image, and You know everything about me. You know what I like to eat, what I like to do, and how I feel every minute of the day. And because You know me so well, I can feel special. Amen.

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

The words in **bold letters** in the paragraph below are hidden in the puzzle.
Words can be across, down or diagonal. Can you find them all?

The **Bible** is full of verses that tell us how much God knows about **everyone**. For example, in the book of Psalms we learn that God knows the **secrets** of the heart (Psalm 44:21), and God knows the **thoughts** of **man**. (Psalm 94:11) King David wrote, "He **knows** how we are **formed**, he **remembers** that we are dust." (Psalm 103:14). Matthew recorded the words of Jesus, who said, "Your **father** knows what you **need** before you ask him." (Matthew 6:8) Jesus referred to us as **sheep**. Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me." (John 10:14) The Apostle Paul wrote, "God, who knows the **heart**." (Acts 15:8). Perhaps the Apostle John said it best when he wrote, "God knows **everything**." (1 John 3:20b).



P	J	K	L	X	N	Z	V	B	S	C	U	I
T	L	E	N	O	Y	R	E	V	E	W	E	G
O	G	H	E	W	E	Z	L	Y	C	B	M	N
S	S	D	Q	R	V	B	B	O	R	I	G	I
R	E	H	T	A	F	X	I	P	E	S	Y	H
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B	Q	S	V	E	G	U	E	H	S	B	K	Y
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E	A	P	Q	N	X	U	W	A	F	D	Z	E
M	D	E	M	R	O	F	I	R	J	E	N	V
E	D	E	M	H	K	W	F	T	W	E	U	E
R	F	O	T	P	K	Y	S	B	X	N	A	M



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